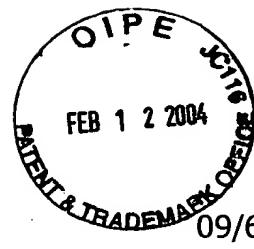


REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 10-17, 20-24, and 28-32 are in this application. Claims 1-9, 18-19, and 25-27 have been cancelled. Claims 10-17, 20-24, and 28-32 have been allowed.

Applicants request the Examiner to indicate whether the formal drawings filed on July 11, 2002 have been entered into the application. The formal drawings, which were received by the USPTO on July 19, 2002, replace the informal drawings that were filed with the application. Applicants note that in the next communication following receipt of the drawings, applicants are to be notified by the Examiner if the drawings have been entered and, if not entered, applicants should receive an explanation as to why the drawings were not entered. (See MPEP §608.02(h).)

The Examiner rejected claims 25-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Takemura (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,326). The Examiner also rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Takemura and further in view of Shakuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,376,866). As noted above, claims 25-27 have been cancelled.



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PATENT

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO
OFFICE ACTION DATED NOVEMBER 28, 2003

Atty. Docket No. 100-13401
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